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ABSTRACT

A four-year examination of the freshman class entering Shippensburg State College in 1970 was made to chart the impact of college on a group of students. Almost 90 percent of the freshman class was initially administered the survey during the pre-school Freshman Orientation Program. A sophomore year retest was given to 75 percent of the sample class, and the final retest was mailed to all former members of the class, with a 60 percent return. The following conclusions were drawn: (1) Females are important factors in the class response patterns, with their conservative opinions overshadowing the more radical and liberal male views. (2) There is a peak of liberalization of political philosophy that begins to ebb two years after matriculation. (3) By the final testing there is no longer evident any automatic matching of political party, philosophy, and issue. (4) Males, in contrast to females, through the senior year of testing show a decrease in agreement with parents' political views. (5) There remains a strong, continuous conservative orientation in class responses. (6) Home and dormitory residents are more conservative in outlook than students living off-campus. (7) Curriculum major correlates with attitude, with liberal attitudes more evident among arts and science and business administration students. (Author/LBH)

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CENTENNIAL CLASS SURVEY

FOUR YEAR TRENDS

PART I. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CURRENT ISSUES SURVEY

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Shippensburg, Pennsylvania

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CENTENNIAL CLASS SURVEY - FOUR YEAR TRENDS

PART I. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CURRENT ISSUES SURVEY

Background

In the fall semester of 1970 the entering freshman class matriculated during the 100th anniversary year of Shippensburg State College. At this time a study was begun to chart the impact college had upon this original group of students. This four year examination was appropriately called the Centennial Class Survey.

Instrumentation

The survey was composed originally of three instruments. The Socio-Economic Survey examined the student background characteristics; the Current Issues Survey sampled opinions about contemporary social issues; and the Runner Study of Attitude Patterns examined personality differences among student sub-groups.

Testing Procedures

Almost 90 percent of the freshman class were initially administered the survey during the pre-school Freshman Orientation Program.[1] A sophomore year re-test was conducted in April, 1972, and 75 percent of the sample class was tested.[2] In April, 1974, the final re-test of the Centennial Class Survey was mailed to all

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[1]See Analysis of Results in H. Aberman, A Comprehensive Freshmen Survey of Shippensburg State College, 1970-71, Department of Psychology, Shippensburg State College.

[2]See Analysis of Results in H. Aberman, Centennial Class Survey - Sophomore Year Re-Test, Part I, Current Issues Survey, Department of Psychology, SSC and H. Aberman, Centennial Class Survey - Sophomore Year Re-Test, Part II, The Runner Studies, Department of Psychology, Shippensburg State College.

former members of the class. Over 60 percent of the survey recipients completed and returned their tests.

For the sophomore and senior year re-tests a combined form of Current Issues and Socio-Economic Survey was answered anonymously by students, and the obtained results are the subject of this report. The data from the Runner Study testing will be examined in a separate inquiry.

Data Processing

The Shippensburg State College Computer Center played an invaluable role in all the studies of the Centennial Class series. Dr. William Gould, Assistant Center Director, developed a computer program to process the mountain of key-punched data cards and tabulate the results.

Results

A. STUDENT BACKGROUND

Unless otherwise indicated all figures presented will be percentages of total. A second section follows which examines selected patterns of interaction among the variables.

1. Sex Distribution

	1970 (Fr. year) No.	%	1972 (So. year) No.	%	1974 (Sr. year) No.	%
Male	386	45	256	38	206	36
Female	461	54	413	61	362	63
	847		669		568	

Observations:

The response to the senior year re-test was quite satisfactory. Contained within the 60 percent total return rate were responses from 70 percent of the students who had previously graduated or were members of the then currently

graduating senior class. In all these total and sub-samples the predominance of female members is consistent with the 63 percent figure expressed above. This senior year total completes an increase of almost 10 percent in female representation since the freshman year. The reasons for the greater attrition rate among male members of the original sample has been examined at length in a previous report.[3] The necessity to work while in college and poor high school records were variables associated with the males greater likelihood to leave school.

* *

2. Area of Specialization

	1970				1972				1974			
	M	F	T	%	M	F	T	%	M	F	T	%
Elem. Ed.	30	244	276	32	18	223	241	36	23	187	210	36
Sec. Ed.	121	90	212	24	73	74	147	21	53	69	121	21
Bus. Ed.	28	26	54	6	11	23	34	5	11	12	23	4
Lib. Sci.	--	27	27	3	1	29	30	4	2	16	18	3
Arts & Sci.	85	67	152	18	59	60	119	17	45	52	97	17
Bus. Admin.	122	6	128	15	92	2	94	14	56	4	60	10

Observations:

The above chart provides supporting evidence that the student composition of the senior year survey is similar to the samples obtained in the previous two testings. Business related majors and male students exhibit decreasing representation across the four years studied. By 1974 the relative ranking of the major areas as well as the percent of total students within each specialization were almost identical with the sophomore year results.

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[3]See H. Aberman A Comprehensive Freshman Survey, Part II, p. 26.

3. Geographical Area Where Raised

	1970	1972	1974
Large Urban (500,000)	3	6	3
Moderately Large Urban (Harrisburg, York, Lancaster)	13	12	10
Suburban (West Shore, Main Line, North Hills)	19	17	20
Moderate Size City Town (Carlisle, Chambersburg, Hanover)	20	20	20
Small City Town (1,000 - 6,000 Shippensburg)	25	22	21
Rural - Non-Farm	12	15	15
Farm	6	7	9

Observations:

The relative geographical distribution of centennial class members has remained fairly consistent through the four years studies. These results promote confidence that a satisfactory sample of the original centennial class has been secured by the three testings. Further support for such a conclusion is provided by the stability of results for the accompanying background characteristics.

* *

4. Father's Occupation

	1970	1972	1974
Professional or Semi-Professional	17.6	17.6	19.8
Proprietor, Manager, Officer	18.9	20.0	17.3
Farmer or Farm Manager	4.0	4.3	5.3
Clerical, Office, Sales, Kindred	14.3	10.9	12.5
Craftsman, skilled	27.0	27.9	25.1
Foreman, Machine, Semi-skilled	12.6	12.4	11.9
Unskilled Laborer	1.8	2.8	3.1
Other	3.6	3.9	4.8
	99.8	99.8	99.8

5. Father and Mother Educational Background

	1970		1972		1974	
	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother
Elementary Grades	4	2	7	5	8	5
High School Grades	21	18	20	19	21	18
High School Graduate	40	54	37	52	34	50
Attended College	12	9	12	7	11	6
College Graduate	12	6	11	6	9	6
Other School Beyond High School	5	8	5	8	6	9
Master's Degree	5	1	6	2	7	1
Doctorate Degree	1	0	1	0	1	0

Observations:

Future student background studies should monitor the percentages of fathers' occupations in professional and craftsmen categories. In addition, the percentage of students who are first generation college attendees is worth attention. Currently only 12 to 13 percent of these sampled students have parents with college degrees. Important compositional changes in our undergraduate population could be indicated if it is increasingly drawn from college educated and professionally employed parents.

* *

6. Head of Household's Estimated Annual Income

	1970			1972			1974		
	T	%	% Mothers Working	T	%	% Mothers Working	T	%	% Mothers Working
0 - 2,499	6	0	50	10	1	29	16	2	25
2,500 - 4,999	39	4	51	26	3	80	29	5	62
5,000 - 7,499	120	17	61	90	13	63	77	13	60
7,500 - 9,999	216	30	53	147	21	57	104	19	70
10,000 - 12,499	154	22	44	135	20	49	144	25	60
12,500 - 14,999	65	7	50	90	13	48	67	11	60
15,000 - 17,499	44	5	38	46	6	45	37	6	40
17,500 - 19,999	15	1	26	19	2	26	29	5	55
20,000 - 22,499	14	1	21	21	3	19	20	3	40
22,500 or more	16	1	31	23	3	21	32	5	34

Observations:

The totals for the above income levels would seem increasingly accurate. Exactly 90 percent of the respondees felt they provided a "fairly close estimate." The most interesting fact is taken from a comparison of the computed median estimates for the three testings:

1970 median = $9,578.00
1972 median = 10,566.00
1974 median = 10,913.00

From the sophomore to the junior year, median income only advanced one-third of its increase from the freshman to the sophomore testings. It is conceivable that the increased accuracy of the estimates reduced previously overinflated figures. In addition, students who have already graduated and are married or on their own would be reporting a much lower head of household salary compared to when they lived with their parents.

For incomes over $7,500 per year there was a significant increase in the percent of mothers working. This also suggests the possible interpretation that families financially pressed during a period of rampant inflation are compelled to move the mother into the job market.

* *

7. College Board Scores (High School Senior Year)

	Combined Verbal and Math Scores								
	Male			Female			Total		
	70	72	74	70	72	74	70	72	74
1400 or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1300 - 1399	2.1	2.0	4.0	2.7	1.8	2.0	2.5	1.9	2.7
1200 - 1299	7.2	7.1	10.0	9.5	9.2	13.8	8.3	8.7	10.6
1100 - 1199	16.8	23.9	20.0	22.3	23.9	20.3	19.8	23.9	20.4
1000 - 1099	34.8	27.2	28.9	28.7	27.6	33.0	32.0	27.4	31.4
900 - 999	28.4	28.7	25.4	26.9	25.1	22.8	27.2	27.9	23.7
800 - 899	6.9	7.7	8.0	7.9	7.9	6.4	7.3	7.7	7.0
700 - 799	2.4	1.8	1.5	1.0	2.4	1.1	1.7	2.2	1.2
699 or less	1.0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

8. High School Class Standing

	Male			Female			Total		
	70	72	74	70	72	74	70	72	74
Upper Fifth	36.8	42	36	68.1	69	67	51.0	59	55
Second Fifth	43.2	35	34	26.9	23	21	32.0	28	26
Third Fifth	15.9	12	18	3.0	3	5	8.0	6	10
Fourth Fifth	2.1	2	1	0	0	0	1.0	1	1
Lower Fifth	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	--	5	6	--	3	4	--	4	5

Observations:

The Sophomore Re-Test Study concluded that the above data showed that... "the males who did remain in Shippensburg's Centennial Class were more comparable to females in their high school college board score performance and class standing." (p. 8). The senior year surveyed all former Centennial Class members and included those students who did not complete their studies at this institution. Despite this qualification in sampling, the male and female distributions are still somewhat similar at various performance levels in the senior year re-test.

B. POLITICAL OPINION

Results from related questions are combined to highlight continuing and somewhat contradictory trends in political thinking during the four years of study.

9. Political Philosophy

	1970	1972	1974
Intensely Liberal	2%	3%	4%
Liberal	33%	40%	34%
Middle of the Road	44%	40%	45%
Conservative	20%	14%	14%
Intensely Conservative	0%	0%	0%

10. Party Affiliation

1970	1972	1974
365 (42%) Republican	300 (44%) Democrat	273 (48%) Democrat
349 (40%) Democrat	237 (35%) Republican	153 (26%) Republican
129 (15%) Independent	112 (16%) Independent	111 (19%) Independent
20 (1%) Other	10 (1%) Other	25 (4%) Other

10 a. Political Party by Sex

	Republican			Democrat		
	1970	1972	1974	1970	1972	1974
Male	37	28	17	43	50	51
Female	47	39	32	38	41	46

Observations:

The four year trend in self-described political philosophy seems to hit a peak of liberalism around the end of the sophomore year. There is a definite swing toward a more conservative selection by the senior. Further studies will seek to determine whether this trend reversal was symptomatic of the entire class or confined to particular sub-groups.

It is rather striking that the pattern of political party affiliations does not parallel the reversal noted in political philosophy noted above. The senior year results show growing Democratic selections, and increasing abandonment of Republican party identification. The third chart's analysis of party choice by sex supports this trend. Through all class testings there is exhibited a continuing increase by both males and females in Democratic party selection. Both sexes displayed an increasing reluctance to select the Republican party label.

Although generalizations in politics are never constantly held, conventional thinking usually hold the Democrats as more liberal and the Republicans more conservative in their respective political philosophy. It is curious that a direct parallel between party selection and philosophy was not evident. A possible explanation for this rather paradoxical finding is contained within the results of the voting for presidential candidates.

* *

11. Presidential Candidate Preference

1970	1972	1974
304 (35%) Richard Nixon	265 (39%) Richard Nixon	177 (31%) Edward Kennedy
180 (21%) Edward Kennedy	160 (23%) George McGovern	59 (10%) Gerald Ford
103 (12%) Edwin Muskie	63 (09%) Edward Kennedy	56 (09%) Edwin Muskie
85 (10%) John Lindsey	50 (07%) Edwin Muskie	46 (08%) Richard Nixon

Observations:

The catastrophic effect of Watergate upon the preference for Richard Nixon is shown in the 1972 and 1974 voting. The increased preference for Kennedy (before his announced withdrawal from the race) goes hand in hand with the previously noted increases in Democratic party affiliation.

All the preceding data reviewed in this section seem to suggest a rather interesting finding. In contrast with their freshman year results, this class as seniors is capable of making more subtle distinctions between political philosophy and the issues of candidate and party. Seniors seem quite comfortable with expressing a more conservative political philosophy, and voting for the candidate of the more "liberal" party. Freshman year candidate preferences generally followed political philosophy. It is perhaps an indication of the increased sophistication in political thinking that seniors bring to a political campaign. It is fascinating to speculate whether the correlation of political philosophy and personality, which was so strongly indicated in the freshman results, will hold for the senior year data.

* *

12. Agreement With Parents' Views on Politics

	1970	1972	1974
In Perfect Agreement	1%	1%	0%
Mostly in Agreement	57%	51%	47%
Can't Say Either Way	27%	33%	38%
Mostly in Disagreement	12%	13%	13%
In Complete Disagreement	1%	1%	1%

12 a. Agreement With Parents' Political Views by Sex

	Male			Female		
	1970	1972	1974	1970	1972	1974
Mostly in Agreement	50	42	35	63	56	64

Observations:

The trends in totalled data can sometimes be deceiving. In Chart 12 above the major effect seems to be a ten percent shift from the "Mostly in Agreement" category to "Can't say either way." It would appear that during the intervening four years of this study politics was a source of increasing disagreement in homes of Centennial Class members.

Chart 12a qualifies the preceding point by showing it was the male student who exhibited a progressive decline in agreeing with parents' political views. Female members show a completely opposite trend in the last two years of the survey. By 1972 their lessening of agreement with parents' views peaked and in 1974 this percentage had returned to a figure slightly higher than the freshman year total. The responses to this test item over the survey period indicate a differential effect upon male and female class members. It is important to determine whether the responses to other tests produce a similar result.

* *

13. Reaction To Being Drafted Into the Armed Forces (for all students)

	1970	1972	1974
I Would Serve Because I Consider it My Duty.	63%	52%	53%
I Would Serve After Exhausting Every Legal Means to be Exempted.	28%	33%	36%
I Would Go to Jail Rather Than Serve.	3%	3%	2%
I Would Leave the Country Rather Than Serve.	4%	9%	5%

Observations:

In contrast to national norms examined in the freshman study (p. 14), the Centennial Class members maintained a definite willingness to serve their country throughout the study. The four years covered saw Viet Nam protests at their height, desegregation, and Watergate.

During these unsettling times of national self-criticism and doubt, the majority of the class maintained the position that to serve their country was their duty. This rather significant result might reflect the influence of strong traditional family and community ties characteristic of South-Central Pennsylvania life. The decision to maintain the Army War College and various government defense and supply installations in this area is a recognition of the positive reception they are given. Patriotism is an important value in the norms of highly traditional communities.

* *

C. DRUG USE PERSPECTIVE

14. Views on Legislation Banning Use and Sale of Marijuana

	1970	1972	1974
Laws should punish everyone using or selling these drugs.	42%	20%	25%
Laws should punish sellers or "pushers", not users.	29%	29%	24%
Marijuana use is a personal matter not subject to regulation by law.	29%	49%	49%

15. Views on Legislation Banning Use and Sale of Hard Drugs, i. e., L.S.D. or Heroin?

	1970	1972	1974
Laws should punish everyone using or selling these drugs.	67%	52%	50%
Laws should punish sellers or "pushers", not users.	28%	39%	39%
Use of these drugs is a personal matter not sugject to regulation by law.	4%	7%	8%

Observations:

The senior year results for the above two items are significant in showing no increased "liberalization" in attitudes towards drug use legislation. Opinion about L.S.D. and Heroin remained almost consistent with the sophomore year findings. In contrast opinion about anti-marijuana legislation hardened somewhat with a noticeable five percent increase in those wanting punishment for both user or seller.

* *

16. Personal Experience With Use of Marijuana

	1970	1972	1974
Never approached or considered using it.	67%	51%	42%
Tempted, but never used it.	19%	17%	14%
Total non-users	86%	68%	56%
Few times (1-10 times)	9%	16%	22%
Once or twice a month	2%	4%	5%
Have used it once or twice a week	2%	5%	7%
Daily basis	1%	4%	7%
	14%	29%	41%

16a. Experience with Marijuana by Sex

	Male			Female		
	1970	1972	1974	1970	1972	1974
*Total of all use from experimenting to daily use.	21%*	45%	56%	8%	18%	33%

Observations:

Reported marijuana usage increased to 41 percent of the Centennial Class. The rate of increase occurring between 1972 and 1974 was less than doubling of use that took place between the freshman and sophomore years. More than half of the senior year use was on an experimental basis. In a previous study the freshman class of 1972 reported a total marijuana use of 32 percent. This figure compares to 14 percent reported by the Centennial Class as freshmen. It is quite likely, then, that current campus marijuana use is higher than the senior year figures reported for the Centennial Class.

* *

17. Experience With Use of Pep Pills, Goof Balls, and Amphetamines

	1970	1972	1974
Never approached or considered using it.	87%	72%	76%
Tempted, but never used it.	8%	15%	6%
Total non-users	95%	87%	82%
Few times (1-10 times)	3%	7%	11%
Once or twice a month	1%	2%	1%
Once or twice a week	0%	1%	1%
Daily basis	0%	1%	1%

18. Experience With Use of L.S.D. or "Speed"

	1970	1972	1974
Never approached or considered using it.	93%	86%	83%
Tempted, but never used it.	4%	6%	4%
Total non-users	97%	92%	87%
Few times (1-10 times)	3%	4%	8%
Once or twice a month	0%	1%	1%
Have used it once or twice a week.	0%	0%	0%
Daily basis	0%	0%	0%

19. Experience with Use of Heroin

	1970	1972	1974
Never approached or considered using it.	99%	97%	94%
Tempted, but never used it.	.09%	2%	4%
	99.09%	99%	98%
Few times (1-10 times)	0	0	1
Once or twice a month	0	0	0
Once or twice a week	0	0	0
Daily basis	0	0	0

Observation:

Taken together the four year pattern of "hard" drug use among members of the Centennial Class is consistently low. The increase in use that occurred was confined chiefly to experimental rather than habitual consumption.

* *

20. Personal Experience With Use of Alcohol

	1970	1972	1974
I do not drink.	35%	15%	10%
I drink sometimes, socially.	50%	55%	63%
I enjoy drinking quite frequently.	13%	25%	25%
I am frequently intoxicated.	1%	2%	1%
I am highly dependent on liquor.	0%	0%	0%

20 a. Experience with Alcohol by Sex*

	Male			Female		
	1970	1972	1974	1970	1972	1974
*Total of all students who at least "Drink Sometime Socially"	78%	85%	93%	54%	81%	89%

Observations:

From the freshman to the senior year there was a 25 percent increase in respondents at least beginning to drink socially. By the senior year 9 of 10 class members did drink at least socially. The greatest increase occurred among female members during the four years studied. Between 1970 and 1974 reported female drinking

increased 35 percent to total 89 percent. In comparison, male respondents increased only 15 percent to total 93 percent in this same category.

Students seem to view drinking as a far "safer" pastime than drug use. Such an attitude toward drinking is unfortunate in view of the great damage it does annually to all age levels and cross sections of our society.

* *

PART II - DATA INTERACTION

1. Analysis by Residence

A. School Year Current Residence

	1972			1974		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Dormitory	157 (32%)	332 (67%)	489	28 (43%)	38 (56%)	66
Off-Campus	55 (55%)	44 (44%)	99	84 (36%)	144 (63%)	228
Parents' Home	31 (52%)	28 (47%)	59	43 (33%)	84 (66%)	127
Own Residence	-	-	-	26 (31%)	56 (68%)	82

Observations:

By the senior year the largest proportion of Centennial Class members had migrated from the dormitories that characterized their sophomore year residence and into off-campus housing. In the sophomore year results males outnumbered females in residing off-campus or in their parents' homes. By 1974 females strongly outnumbered males in all types of residence. A significant write-in response created a fourth category in the senior year testing. This grouping was composed of Centennial Class members who reported living in their own home and not with their parents.

* *

B. Political Philosophy

	Class Average		Dormitory		Off-Campus		Home		Own Home
	1972	1974	1972	1974	1972	1974	1972	1974	1974
Intensely Liberal	3	4	2	6	9	4	3	2	1
Liberal	40	34	41	31	42	37	28	27	34
Middle of the Road	40	45	40	43	35	47	52	48	42
Conservative	14	14	14	18	12	9	13	19	19
Intensely Conservative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Observations:

The conservative shift in political philosophy between 1972 and 1974 did not mute previous belief differences associated with student residence. The highest conservative, middle-of-the-road choices and lowest liberal identifications occurred among class members living with their parents. The highest liberal percentage was found with the off-campus residents. The dormitory residents were rather unique in displaying conservative preferences in all categories except "intensely liberal" where their percentage was highest of all other resident groups.

* *

C. Agreement With Parents' Political Views

	Mostly in Agreement		Mostly in Disagreement	
	1972	1974	1972	1974
Class average	51%	47%	13%	13%
Dormitory residents	53%	59%	11%	13%
Off-campus residents	39%	46%	20%	13%
Parents home	45%	46%	13%	11%
Own residence	-	45%	-	9%

Observations:

Sophomore test results found off-campus residents as least likely to agree and most likely to disagree with parents' political views. No such distinction is found in the senior year results with this group. Dormitory residents showed an increased likelihood to be in agreement with parents' views.

2. Drug Use Patterns

A. Class Member Residence*

Drug	Class Average 1972	Class Average 1974	Dormitory 1972	Dormitory 1974	Off-Campus 1972	Off-Campus 1974	Home 1972	Home 1974	Own Home 1974
Marijuana	29	40	26	42	56(H)	53(H)	11(L)	29(L)	38
Pep Pills,Etc.	11	20	8(L)	16	21(H)	20(H)	10	9(L)	15
L.S.D. "Speed"	1	9	2(L)	7	16(H)	15(H)	5	7(L)	9
Heroin	0	0	0	0	2(H)	0	0	0	0
Alcohol	82	90	83	90	89(H)	93(H)	63(L)	84(L)	91

*Figures are percentage of students who have at least experimented with the drug. H = highest and L = lowest rate of use for particular drug category.

Observations:

The results obtained for this item in 1974 clearly paralleled the findings for the 1972 testing. First, off-campus residents reported the highest rate of consumption for all measurably used drug categories.

Second, residents in parents' homes provided the lowest percentage of use for the very same drugs. It might be argued that off-campus living is a self-screening process that attracts the more independent and daring person who is prone to experiment with drugs. Environmentalists might suggest that peer group effects of roommates and the more permissive atmosphere of off-campus living are the important factors in the high rates found. The real source of usage motivation is still a moot point. However, in this study the selection of a home or off-campus residence seems crucial to the amount of prominance drugs occupy in a student's daily experience.

* *

B. Drug Use By Curriculum*

	Bus. Ed.	Elem. Ed.	Lib. Sci.	Sec. Ed.	A. & S.	Bus. Admin.	Class Average
Marijuana	57	30	16	42	64	62	44
Pep Pills, Etc.	22	7	5	17	33	21	18
L.S.D. "Speed"	9	2	1	14	31	11	13
Heroin	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Alcohol	82	76	77	92	94	99	90

*Total percentage of students who have at least experimented with drug.

Observations:

Rather sharp differences in drug use exist among the curriculum majors in the Centennial Class. Respondents from Arts and Science and Business Administration classifications generally reported the highest average drug use. Such a finding is congruent with the results of previous student studies.[4] Elementary Education and Library Science majors indicated use rates consistently below the total class average.

Personality differences between majors might account for some of these variations. Education majors, especially those in an elementary specialization, were found to be more traditional and conservative (Freshman Study, p. 14). As future teachers and parental surrogates, their resistance to drug use might be expected. Arts and Science majors displayed greater curiosity and a need to experiment with individual expression (p. 14). Drug experimentation would seem a likely outcome of such a curious nature.

A second factor that might explain drug use variation among majors would be the male-female proportion within each group. Males tend to experiment more with drugs. It is not surprising that the three curriculums (Arts and Science, Business

[4]See Author's Reports--A Comprehensive Freshman Survey and Student Motivation and Occupational Clarity Department of Psychology.

Administration and Business Education) that have numerically more males than the other fields have higher drug use.

The recent growth of programs at Shippensburg has occurred within Business Administration and Arts and Sciences. Education majors have comprised a decreasing portion of each incoming freshman class. With the continuation of these enrollment trends it is apparent that the problem of drug use will not disappear quickly. Barring a sudden, dramatic shift in campus and peer group norms away from drug experimentation, its effect upon campus life will be felt for some time to come.

SUMMARY

This final section is an attempt to selectively highlight what are thought to be significant four year trends contained within the preceding pages.

1. Female Prominence

In numbers as well as influence female members were important factors in the class response patterns. In political thinking and drug use especially the weight of their conservative opinion overshadowed the more radical and liberal views of the numerically fewer male members.

2. Political Philosophy

There would appear to be a peak of "liberalization" of political philosophy that begins to ebb two years after matriculation. For both males and females there seems an evident return towards a middle-of-the-road position by the senior year.

3. Political Sophistication

Class members displayed an increasing ability to maintain a conservative philosophy yet select a liberal presidential candidate. By the final testing there is no longer evident any automatic matching of political party, philosophy and issue. Increasingly sophisticated thinking seems indicated in the making of such fine distinctions in political orientation.

4. Agreement with Parents' Political Views

The trend of responses displays a pattern that distinguishes between male and female class members. Males, through the senior year testing decrease in agreement with parents from the sophomore to senior year. Future analysis should focus on further evidence of such differential effects upon male and female members.

5. Conservative Outlook

Through all testings there remains a strong, continuing conservative orientation in class responses. The willingness to serve in the armed forces remains a commitment for the majority of respondents. The preference for a middle-of-the-road position in political philosophy was always the most frequently taken position of the typical respondee. Although experimentation with marijuana increased, hard use of all drugs remained low. The high rate of alcohol consumption was a significant exception to this trend. The remaining question is whether the results of personality testing reflect the same conservative outlook indicated above.

6. Influence of School Year Residence

Living at home, in a dormitory, or an off-campus apartment is a critical influence in the four-year development of the Centennial Class respondent. There would seem to be sharply different experiential worlds associated with residence selection. The liberal-experiential attitude towards drugs and politics is keenly felt in off-campus settings. Home and dorm residents are more conservative in outlook. This study suggests that the location of school year residence might have as much impact upon student attitudes and values as the selection of his major area of specialization.

7. Curriculum Major Differences

Education majors have continuously been the more conservative element in survey responses. A more liberal attitude was evident in the replies of the Arts and Science and Business Administration students. The composition of incoming freshmen classes is shifting toward greater representation in Business and Liberal Arts areas. These facts alone foretell changes in the traditional view of campus life at Shippensburg. In the classroom interaction, sporting events, and dorms, more questioning, assertive students will be evident. The impact of their presence is just beginning to be felt.